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Programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015

Follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit

Statute of the United Nations Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela Prize

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/69/L.55

Statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly

I. Introduction

1. Draft resolution A/69/L.55, on the statute of the United Nations Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela Prize, responds to General Assembly resolution 68/275, in which the Assembly established the United Nations Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela Prize, which will be honorary in nature, as a tribute to the outstanding achievements and contributions of individuals to the purposes and principles of the United Nations.

2. Under the terms of the operative paragraph of draft resolution A/69/L.55, the General Assembly would decide to adopt the statute of the United Nations Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela Prize, as annexed to the draft resolution.

II. Requests contained in the draft resolution

3. Under the terms of articles 2, 3 and 4 of the proposed statute, the General Assembly would decide that:

(a) The Prize shall be presented once every five years as a tribute to the outstanding achievements and contributions of two individuals (one female and one male), not to be selected from the same geographic region, and shall take into account the geographic region of the previous awardees so as to ensure equitable balance. The Prize shall be awarded in recognition of their dedicated service to humanity, in the promotion of reconciliation and social cohesion, and in community development, guided by the purposes and principles of the United Nations. No

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current staff member of any organization of the United Nations system shall be eligible for the Prize; (article 2.1)

(b) The Prize, to be awarded to each winner, in recognition of the humility of Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela, shall be a plaque engraved with an appropriate citation and a relevant quotation. The quotation shall be determined by the Committee for the United Nations Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela Prize, in consultation with the Secretary-General; (article 2.2)

(c) The individuals who are to receive the Prize shall be announced in May of the year in which the Prize is to be awarded. The Prize shall be presented by the Secretary-General at an award ceremony that shall be part of the commemoration by the General Assembly of Nelson Mandela International Day (18 July) at United Nations Headquarters; (article 2.3)

(d) The first Prize is expected to be awarded in 2015. The Committee is requested, on an exceptional, one-time basis, to take appropriate streamlined measures, for the first bestowing of the Prize; (article 2.4)

(e) The secretariat of the Committee shall publicize the Prize on existing websites of the United Nations and through existing communication and outreach channels. Nominations shall reach the secretariat not later than 31 December of the year prior to the year for which the nominations are to be considered; (article 3.2)

(f) The Department of Public Information shall serve as the secretariat of the Committee. (article 4.3)

III. Relationship of the requests to the biennial programme plan and priorities for the period 2014-2015 and to the programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015

4. The activities to be carried out relate to programme 24, Public information, of the biennial programme plan and priorities for the period 2014-2015 and to section 28, Public information, of the programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015.

IV. Activities by which the requests would be implemented

5. Pursuant to articles 2.1, 2.3 and 2.4 of the proposed statute, the first Prize would be awarded in 2015 to two individuals (one female and one male) at an awards ceremony in New York. The Committee for the United Nations Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela Prize is requested, on an exceptional, one-time basis, to take appropriate streamlined measures for the bestowing of the first Prize in 2015. Given the tight time frame for the administration of the award process in 2015, including, the establishment of the Committee, the nomination and selection of the laureates and the presentation of the Prize, it is assumed that the awards ceremony for 2015 would be scheduled in September 2015.

6. In that regard, additional resource requirements in the amount of $18,700 would be required to cover the travel costs (including daily subsistence allowance) of the two recipients of the Prize, and an amount of $5,000 to cover the awards ceremony in September 2015.

7. Pursuant to articles 2.2 and 3.2 of the proposed statute, the secretariat shall produce two plaques engraved with an appropriate citation and publicize the Prize

on existing United Nations websites and communications and outreach channels. It is estimated that an amount of $4,000 in 2015 shall be required for the production of the two plaques and for print materials, such as the biographies of the laureates, invitations and special event programmes in the six official languages of the United Nations, and for translation of the dedicated webpage. The amount of $4,000 has been identified for absorption within the approved appropriation for the Department of Public Information under the programme budget for 2014-2015.

8. Pursuant to article 4.3 of the proposed statute, the Department of Public Information shall serve as the secretariat of the Committee. Accordingly, additional general temporary assistance would be required on a short-term basis (1 P-3 for six months), in the amount of $73,900. The incumbent would:

(a) Liaise with (i) Governments of States Members and observer States of the United Nations; (ii) entities and intergovernmental organizations having received a standing invitation to participate as observers in the sessions and work of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council; (iii) institutions of higher education; (iv) independent research centres and institutes that are engaged in dedicated service to humanity, the promotion of reconciliation and social cohesion, and community development; and (v) non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, on the administration of the statute of the United Nations Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela Prize;

(b) Provide overall administrative and programmatic assistance to the Committee, as required;

(c) Arrange for the production of promotional materials in the six official languages, including printing and translation;

(d) Oversee the development and maintenance of a dedicated webpage, on the existing Department of Public Information Nelson Mandela International Day website, in the six official languages;

(e) Liaise, on behalf of the Committee, with the United Nations information centres regarding the call for nominations and promotional activities for the Prize;

(f) Assist in collecting, reviewing, vetting, performing background checks, preparing and submitting information on the nominations to the Committee;

(g) Respond to public and media queries and requests for information relating to the Prize;

(h) Coordinate travel for the two prize winners;

(i) Organize and coordinate the award ceremony, including media coverage at United Nations Headquarters.

9. Pursuant to articles 2.1 and 2.3 of the proposed statute, the Prize shall be presented every five years by the Secretary-General at an award ceremony that shall be part of the commemoration by the General Assembly of Nelson Mandela International Day (18 July). As reflected in paragraph 5 above, it is assumed that the bestowing of the first Prize in 2015 would be held in September 2015, on an exceptional basis. The resource requirements for the presentation of the next award in 2020 will be included in detail in the context of the proposed programme budgets for the bienniums 2018-2019 (for 2019) and 2020-2021 (for 2020). Similarly, the resource requirements for the presentation of subsequent awards will be included in the respective proposed programme budgets for the related bienniums. At the current stage, preliminary estimates for the next award in 2020 include an amount of

$4,000 in 2019, to cover promotional and production activities related to the worldwide call for nominations and to raise awareness of the Prize, and $157,400 in 2020 for the administration of the proposed statute.

V. Financial implications of the proposals

10. Should the General Assembly adopt the draft resolution, the total additional requirements would amount to $97,600 under the programme budget for the Department of Public Information for the biennium 2014-2015 (2015 only). The resource requirements take into account the streamlined measures for the administration of the award in 2015, in line with article 2.4 of the proposed statute. The resource requirements for subsequent awards will be included in the proposed programme budgets for the related bienniums.

11. The table below provides a breakdown of the resource requirements under section 28, Public information.

(United States dollars)

	2015				
	Annual requirements	*To be absorbed*	*Additional requirements*	*Estimate 2019*	*Estimate 2020*
A. General temporary assistance					
Public Information Officer (P-3) (6 months in 2015; 7 months in 2020)	73 900	–	73 900	–	86 200
Public Information Assistant (General Service (Other level)) (7 months in 2020)	–	–	–	–	47 500
Subtotal	**73 900**	**–**	**73 900**	**–**	**133 700**
B. Promotional activities and products					
Production of the two prizes (2 x $1,000)	2 000	(2 000)	–	–	2 000
Production and translation of promotional materials in the six official languages of the United Nations (leaflets, advertisements, special events programme, invitations, biographies) and dedicated webpage	2 000	(2 000)	–	1 000	3 000
Promotional activities at the country/regional levels (seed funding)	–	–	–	3 000	–
Subtotal	**4 000**	**(4 000)**	**–**	**4 000**	**5 000**
C. Award ceremony					
Special event expenses	5 000	–	5 000	–	–
Subtotal	**5 000**	**–**	**5 000**	**–**	**–**
D. Travel of award recipients					
Travel, including daily subsistence allowance	18 700	–	18 700	–	18 700
Subtotal	**18 700**	**–**	**18 700**	**–**	**18 700**
Total, section 28	**101 600**	**(4 000)**	**97 600**	**4 000**	**157 400**

VI. Potential for absorption

12. No provision has been made in the programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015 for the activities requested under draft resolution A/69/L.55. As reflected in paragraph 7 above, an amount of $4,000 has been identified for absorption from the approved appropriation for section 28, Public information, for the biennium 2014-2015.

VII. Contingency fund

13. It may be recalled that, under the procedures established by the General Assembly in its resolutions 41/213 and 42/211, a contingency fund is established for each biennium to accommodate additional expenditures derived from legislative mandates not provided for in the programme budget. Under this procedure, if additional expenditures were proposed that exceeded the resources available from the contingency fund, the activities concerned would be implemented only through the redeployment of resources from low-priority areas or the modification of existing activities. Otherwise, such additional activities would have to be deferred to a later biennium.

VIII. Conclusion and action required of the General Assembly

14. **Should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/69/L.55, additional resources in the amount of $97,600 would arise under section 28, Public information, of the programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015. The amount of $97,600 would represent a charge against the contingency fund and, as such, would require an additional appropriation for the biennium 2014-2015 to be approved by the Assembly. The resource requirements for subsequent awards will be included in the proposed programme budgets for the related bienniums.**

15. **The attention of the General Assembly is drawn to the present statement of programme budget implications. The Fifth Committee will examine, during the first part of its resumed sixty-ninth session of the Assembly, both a detailed statement of the programme budget implications arising from the draft resolution and the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions thereon.**